

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

TRANSLATION
PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

To:

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

Applicant's or agent's file reference

20046251

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraph 2 below

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/017540

International filing date (day/month/year)

18.11.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)

21.11.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC

Applicant

ZEON CORPORATION

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☒ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/JIP

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

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Box No. I

Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language
_____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material
☐ a sequence listing
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material
☐ in written format
☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing
☐ contained in the international application as filed.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1. Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	4-8	YES
	Claims	1-3	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims	1-8	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-8	YES
	Claims		NO
2. Citations and explanations:			
<p>Document 1: JP, 11-133408, A (NEC Corp.), 21 May, 1999 (21.05.99), particularly [0062]-[0069], Figs. 1, 16 and 17</p> <p>Document 2: JP, 10-54982, A (Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd.), 24 February, 1998 (24.02.98), particularly [0021]</p> <p>Document 3: JP, 2003-246014, A (Nippon Zeon Co., Ltd.), 2 September, 2003 (02.09.03), full text, all drawings</p> <p>Document 4: JP, 2003-270435, A (Nippon Zeon Co., Ltd.), 25 September, 2003 (25.09.03), full text, all drawings</p> <p>Document 5: JP, 2003-149643, A (Goyo Paper Working Co., Ltd.), 21 May, 2003 (21.05.03), full text, all drawings</p> <p>Claims 1-3</p> <p>The subject matters of claims 1-3 do not appear to be novel in view of document 1 cited in the ISR.</p> <p>Document 1 describes a liquid-crystal display device wherein an optically anisotropic element wherein $n_z > n_x > n_y$ ($n_{z_F} > n_{s_F} > n_{p_F}$) is disposed between a liquid-crystal cell and a outgoing-light polarizer; the absorption axis ($\phi_P - 90$ degrees) of an incident polarizer (a polarizer plate 15) is at -15 degrees; the slow axis (ϕ_{LC0}) in a plane of liquid-crystal cells without voltage applied is at 75 degrees; the slow axis (primary refractivity n_s) in a plane of an optically anisotropic element is at -15 degrees; and the absorption axis ($\phi_A + 90$ degrees) of an outgoing-light polarizer (a polarizer plate 16) is at 75 degrees.</p> <p>Claim 4</p> <p>The subject matter of claim 4 does not appear to involve an inventive step in view of documents 1 and 2 cited in the ISR.</p> <p>The materials for an optically anisotropic element described in claim 4 are disclosed in document 2 ([0021]).</p> <p>The optically anisotropic elements described in documents 1 and 2 belong to technical fields closely related to each other, and so a person skilled in the art could have easily conceived of the idea of using the materials for an optically anisotropic element described in document 2 for those described in document 1.</p> <p>Claims 5 and 6</p> <p>The subject matters of claims 5 and 6 do not appear to involve an inventive step in view of documents 1-3 cited in the ISR.</p> <p>The layered elements described in claims 5 and 6 are disclosed in document 3.</p> <p>The optically anisotropic elements described in documents 1-3 belong to technical fields</p>			

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement

closely related to one another, and so a person skilled in the art could have easily conceived of the idea of using the layered elements described in document 3 for the optically anisotropic element described in document 1.

Claim 7

The subject matter of claim 7 does not appear to involve an inventive step in view of documents 1-4 cited in the ISR.

The contents of residual volatile components described in claim 7 are disclosed in document 4.

The optically anisotropic elements described in documents 1-4 belong to technical fields closely related to one another, and so a person skilled in the art could have easily conceived of the idea of making the contents of residual volatile components of an optically anisotropic element described in document 1 as described in document 4.

Claim 8

The subject matter of claim 8 does not appear to involve an inventive step in view of documents 1-5 cited in the ISR.

The protective film described in claim 8 is disclosed in document 5.

The optically anisotropic elements described in documents 1-5 belong to technical fields closely related to one another, and so a person skilled in the art could have easily conceived of the idea of using the protective film described in document 5 for a viewer-side polarizer described in document 1.

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Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

Claims 4, 5, 7 and 8 are multiple dependent claims referring to other multiple dependent claims (for example, claim 3). Accordingly, the said claims do not satisfy the provisions of PCT Rule 6.4(a).